

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKARTA 01241 280932Z

14

ACTION EB-07

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R 280858Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2415
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1241

DURING MEETING JAN 27 FONDEPT LEGAL DIRECTOR (AND LOS EXPERT) SUFRI JUSUF TOLD POLCOUNS THAT NO DATE HAD YET BEEN SET FOR NEXT MEETING OF MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA ON MALACCA STRAIT TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME. SUFRI SAID THAT WITHIN GOI THERE IS AS YET NO AGREED NEGOTIATING POSITION ON MAJOR POINT OF DISPUTE - UNDER KEEL CLEARANCE (UKC) FOR SUPER TANKERS. SINGAPORE CONTINUES TO WANT A THREE METER CLEARANCE WHEREAS INDONESIA WOULD PREFER FOUR. INDONESIAN MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENSE, JUSTICE AND COMMUNICATIONS ARE SUPPOSED TO MEET TO DETERMINE INDONESIA'S NEGOTIATING POSITION - "THREE METERS, THREE AND ONE-HALF METERS, FOUR METERS OR WHATEVER" BUT IT HAS PROVEN IMPOSSIBLE TO GET FOUR LUMINARIES TOGETHER AT ONE TIME. SUFRI SAID HE BELIEVED INDONESIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO DROP TONNAGE RESTRICTION IF UKC PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED.

2. ASSUMING TECHNICAL QUESTIONS WORKED OUT, SUFRI ADMITTED THERE MIGHT BE PROBLEM OF HOW TO HANDLE IMCO. INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA WILL ONLY AGREE TO CONSULTATIONS WITH IMCO, BUT NOT TO GIVE LATTER AUTHORITY OVER MALACCA STRAIT. POSITION OF SINGAPORE IS LESS CLEAR, HE ADDED.
NEWSOM

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